

Eclipse Plug-in Development Research Project

Report 1

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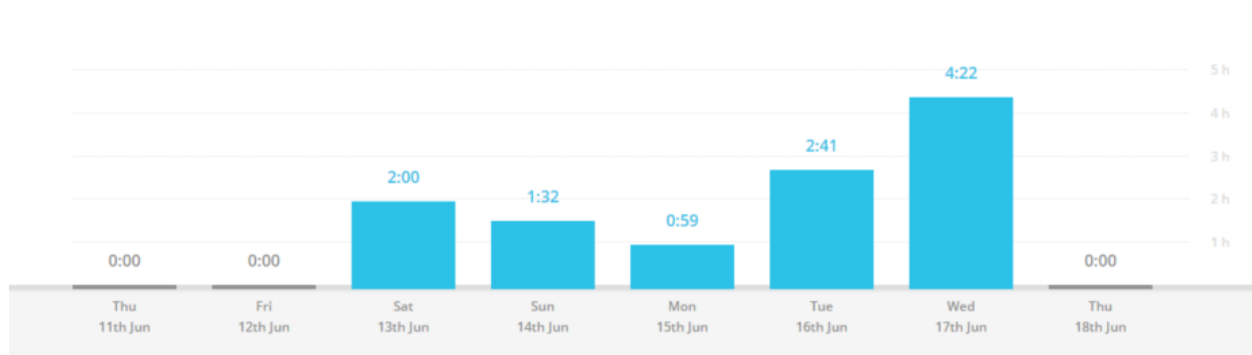
Report 1

Introduction

This report will be in a less formal style, mainly for showing the progress on developing the Eclipse plug-in and also stating the issues that I am having with this project.

Synopsis

I have been spending roughly 10 hours (including report writing) on this project. I am using *toggl* (an online tool) to keep track how much time that I spent on it. Below is the summary graph:



Eclipse Plugin	11:35:33
AST	1:14:40
constructing the body of plugin	2:11:50
constructing the body of plugin + report	2:10:13
finishing listener class	2:41:32
learn jdt core	0:17:30
research on Java Model	2:00:00
research on javamodellistener	0:59:48

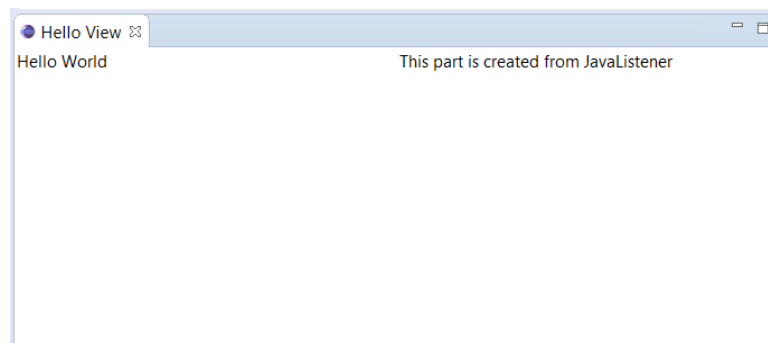
Research areas

As Professor Alphonse suggested in last meeting (6/12/2015), I went over the JDT Core part and also the relevant information. I also spent time analyzing and trying to get some senses and ideas from the two Java files that Professor Alphonse sent me earlier.

Problem statements

So far, what I'm trying to do was to mimic the structures of `Plugin.java` and `JavaModelListener.java`. I used a custom Eclipse Plug-in Project to start off, and the project had `Activator.java` created which was somewhat similar to `Plugin.java`. I also followed the same structure of `JavaModelListener` class, but with the minimum of useful codes. The issue was that I wouldn't be able to know whether the code works or not. There was no way for me to view the plug-in, so I chose sample project to begin, trying to add in the `JavaModelListener.java` class into the project.

I wanted to try outputting something so I would know which parts worked but I couldn't figure a way to output something in plug-in development mode. (unlike what we always use in console, the `System.out.println()` method) I tried to implement a method using `IConsole` method which I found online, but sadly no luck. Below is the output using the SWT Label:



That requires Composite part, which is less idle.

Thoughts and Opinions

Due to my inexperience in Eclipse plugin development, plus there isn't very much useful tutorials that I can find online, my learning and developing stage of this research project is going slow. I didn't spend a lot of time on actual coding, but mostly on understanding the concept and etc. I can understand mostly what the methods do, it's all because it has written correctly. It is quite hard to start from scratch. I would like to request for more sample projects from professor, if you don't mind sharing it with me. Any guidance towards completion will be much appreciated.

I know the starting point is always the hardest part, I believe with more useful sources, I will be able to meet the expectation.